

We claim:

1. A system for locating a plurality of objects, the system comprising:  
a transmitter unit having a plurality of object locating switches, an RF transmitter for producing a plurality of uniquely coded activation signals and a microprocessor positioned between the plurality of object locating switches and the RF transmitter for controlling the transmission of the plurality of coded RF activation signals, the microprocessor including a memory for storing a plurality of target address codes, each target address code being associated with one of the object locating switches, whereupon depression of one of the object locating switches, the RF transmitter transmits the activation signal including the target address code assigned to the object locating switch depressed; and  
a plurality of remote locator units, each remote unit including an RF receiver for receiving the activation signals including the target address codes transmitted by the RF transmitter and a microprocessor coupled to the RF receiver, the microprocessor including a memory for storing a programmable target address, wherein the microprocessor activates an indicator device upon the RF receiver receiving the target address code corresponding to the stored target address.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the activation signal including the target address codes is transmitted by the RF transmitter at a single frequency.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein the single frequency is 315 MHz.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the indicator device generates an audible signal.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the indicator device generates a visible signal.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the remote locator unit is incorporated into the object to be located and cannot be separated therefrom.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the object to be located is a piece of luggage.

8. The system of claim 6 wherein the object to be located is a power tool.

9. The system of claim 6 wherein the object to be located is a key.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the remote locator units is secured to a medication container.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the remote locator unit formed as a portion of the medication container.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the remote locator unit includes a reset switch, wherein depression of the reset switch terminates the activation of the indicator device.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein the remote locator unit includes a memory storage device for storing a preselected sound sample such that the remote locator unit can generate the sound sample upon receipt of the target address code.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein the remote locator unit includes a memory storage device for storing a preselected sound sample such that the remote locator unit can generate the sound sample upon receipt of the target address code.

15. The system of claim 5 wherein at least one of the remote locator units includes an activation switch, wherein the microprocessor activates the indicator device to generate the visible signal upon receiving the target address code for the remote locator unit or upon depression of the activation switch on the remote locator unit.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the indicator device is activated for a predetermined period of time upon depression of the activation switch.

17. The system of claim 1 wherein the activation signal is transmitted at a single frequency and includes a data packet containing one of the plurality of the target address codes.

18. The system of claim 1 wherein the object to be located is a portable work tool powered by a removable battery pack, the system further comprising at least one adapter positioned between one of the portable tools and the associated battery pack, the adapter including one of the remote locator units.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the adapter includes a light source.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein the light source is mounted onto a flexible neck.

21. The system of claim 18 wherein the transmitter unit further includes a master switch and the microprocessor includes a master address code associated with the master switch, wherein the RF transmitter transmits the activation signal including the master address code upon depression of the master switch; and

wherein the remote locator unit including the master address stored in the remote locator unit microprocessor, wherein the microprocessor activates the indicator upon the RF receiver receiving the master address code.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the target address codes and the master address code are transmitted by the RF transmitter at a single frequency.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the master address code stored in the remote locator unit for each of the plurality of adapters is the same.

24. The system of claim 18 wherein each of the adapters includes a tool socket for connection to the portable work tool and a battery socket for receiving the removable battery pack.

25. The system of claim 18 wherein the adapter is integrally formed with the removable battery pack.

26. The system of claim 18 wherein the RF receiver and microprocessor of each integrated remote locator unit receives electrical power from the removable battery pack.

27. The system of claim 19 wherein the portable work tool includes an activation trigger, wherein the light source of the adapter is activated upon depression of the trigger.

28. A system for locating a plurality of objects, the system comprising:  
a transmitter unit having a plurality of switches including a plurality of object locating switches and a master switch, an RF transmitter for producing a plurality of uniquely coded activation signals, and a microprocessor positioned between the plurality of switches and the RF transmitter for controlling the transmission of the plurality of coded RF activation signals, the microprocessor including a memory for storing a plurality of target address codes and a master address code, each target address code being associated with one of the object

locating switches and the master address code being associated with the master switch, whereupon depression of one of the object locating switches or the master switch, the RF transmitter transmits the activation signal including the target address code or master address code associated with the depressed switch; and

a plurality of remote locator units, each remote unit including an RF receiver for receiving the activation signals including the target address codes or the master code transmitted by the RF transmitter and a microprocessor coupled to the RF receiver, the microprocessor including a memory for storing a programmable target address and a programmable master address, wherein the microprocessor activates an indicator device upon the RF receiver receiving either the target address code corresponding to the stored target address or the master address code corresponding to the stored master address.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein the target address codes and the master address code are transmitted by the RF transmitter at a single frequency.

30. The system of claim 29 wherein the single frequency is 315 MHz.

31. The system of claim 28 wherein the indicator device is audible.

32. The system of claim 28 wherein the indicator device is visible.

33. The system of claim 28 wherein the master address code stored by each of the plurality of remote locator units is the same.

34. The system of claim 28 wherein the indicator devices on all of the remote locator units are activated upon transmission of the activation signal including the master address code.

35. The system of claim 32 wherein the remote locator unit includes an activation switch, wherein the indicator device is activated by the microprocessor upon receipt of the target address code for the remote locator unit or upon depression of the activation switch.

36. The system of claim 28 wherein the remote locator unit is incorporated into the object to be located and cannot be separated therefrom.